BOROUGH of GODMANCHESTER

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

UPON THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS of the DISTRICT

DURING YEAR 1956

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

TO THE
GODMANCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year ended 31st. December 1956.

The general health of the population remains satisfactory and longevity continues.

The Birth Rate this year shows a marked rise compared with last year and now stands far above the figure for England and Wales as a whole. There were actually 21 more births in 1956 than in 1955 and it is perhaps interesting to note that it is almost 10 years since the Birth Rate in Godmanchester exceeded 20 per 1000 population.

The Death Rate remains approximately unchanged and is still below the national figure. Infant Mortality ran at a very low level - only 1 infant having died before reaching the age of 1 year.

In September an outbreak of Dysentery occurred within the Borough and lasted until the end of the year. The infection in most cases was of a mild type and of short duration responding well to treatment.

Two cases of Paratyphoid Fever, both in the same family, occurred in the 3rd quarter of 1956. They were quickly isolated and treated in Brookfields Hospital where they both made an uninterrupted recovery. Although considerable investigation was made into the movements and diets of the cases it was not possible to determine the exact source of the infection.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health instructions, registration for vaccination against Poliomyelitis was opened for children born between 1947 & 54 inclusive. In May vaccination commenced for a limited number of children falling in certain age groups selected by the Ministry, but was suspended during the Summer months till November when it recommenced. It is anticipated that immunisation will give a substantial measure of control over this crippling desease, one case of which occurred within the Borough during the year.

The need to ensure that as many children as possible are protected against Diphtheria still remains and although no case of Diphtheria has occurred since 1940, I make no apology for again stressing the advisability of immunisation.

The Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme progressed throughout the year, and December saw the virtual completion of the main sewers and the commencement of house connections although the old method of sewage disposal will continue until the Sewage treatment works and pumping stations are completed.

An adequate and wholesome supply of H_2O was maintained within the Borough during the year.

The 14 houses and 6 bungalows referred to in my last report were completed and occupied during the year

In conclusion I would like to thank members of the Council for their kindness and consideration during the past year, and all officers for their kind help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. Caldwell.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

C.W. Parcell, A.R.SAN. I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	4,956 acres
Estimated population (Mid 1955)	2,420
Estimated population (Mid 1956)	2,450
Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1956 per Rate Book)	791
Rateable Value	£21,392
Value of Penny Rate	£84

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	M.	F.	Total		
Legitimate	23	32	55	Birth rate per 1,000	
Illegitimate	4	1	5	estimated population	24.5
Total	27	33	60	(Ditto for England and Wales)	15.7
Still Births					
Legitimate	-	2	2	Rate per 1,000 total	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	(live & Still) births	32.3
Total	-	2	2	(Ditto for England and Wales)	23.0
Deaths					
(all ages)	19	9	28	Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	11.4
				(Ditto for England and Wales)	11.7

Deaths of Infants Under 1 Year	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Total	-	1	1

Death Rates of Infants under 1 Year

All infants per 1,000 live births	16.7
(Ditto for England and Wales)	23.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	-
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	200

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar-General's List)

List No.	Cause	Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	-	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	-	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, brochus	-	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms ...	2	-
15.	Leukaemia	-	-
16.	Diabetes	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	2	-
18.	Coronary Disease, angina	5	-
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	-	-
20.	Other heart disease	4	2
21.	Other circulatory disease	-	2
22.	Influenza	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	-	1
24.	Bronchitis	1	-
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodnum	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia af prostate	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	-	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	3	-
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	2	-
34.	All other accidents	-	1
35.	Suicide	-	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	Total all causes	19	9

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Total cases notified
Scarlet Fever	3
Whooping Cough	4
Diphtheria	-
Measles	13
Acute Pnemonia	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Paratyphoid Fever	2
Erysipelas	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1
Infective Hepatitis	1
Pul. Tuberculosis	1
Dysentery	19
	53

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The following Laboratory facilities have been available to the Authority and to General Practitioners in the Area:-

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road,
Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst (S.Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.)
Tennison Road, Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 2097.

(b) Ambulance Services

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders. (Tel. Huntingdon 348)

(c) Home Nursing

A Nurse / Midwife residing in Godmanchester (Tel. Huntingdon 609) employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended Maternity Cases in the Borough.

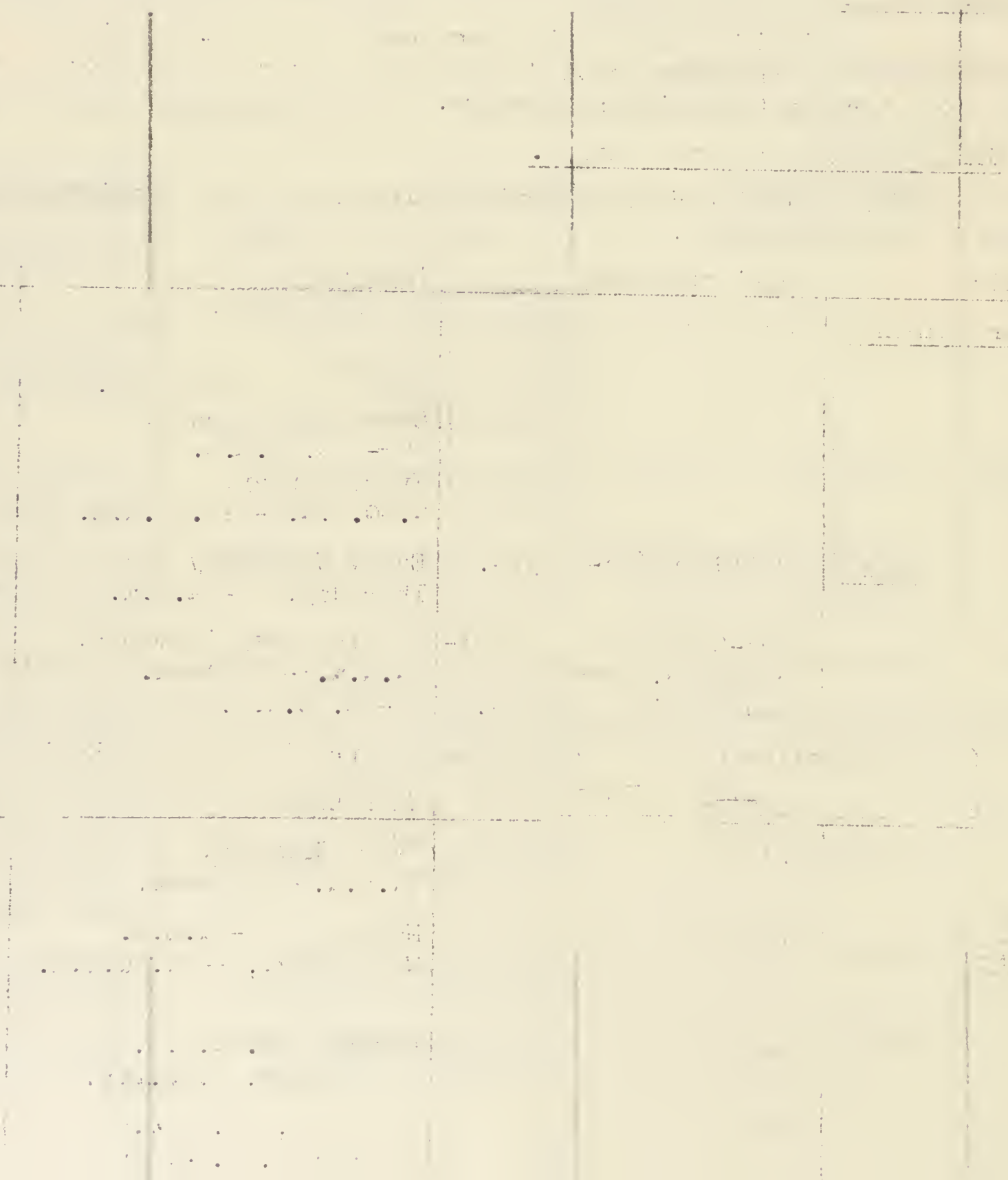
(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(1) The following Health Services provided by the Huntingdon County Council were available:

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	1st Thursday in month	Liberal Club, St. Neots.
		Every other Thursday, School Nurse only. 10 - 11.30.a.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
		Every Monday, 9.30.a.m. - 10.30.a.m.	
Infant Welfare	Children (0 - 5 yrs.)	Every Wednesday and Thursday, 2 - 4.p.m.	Liberal Club, St. Neots.
Dental	Pre-School and School-children. Pre-Natal and Nursing Mothers.	1st Thursday in month, 10.a.m. - 12 Noon. 2 - 3.30.p.m.	Red Cross Room, High Street, St. Neots.

(11) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board:

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday. 10.a.m. - 12 Noon.	County Hospital Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All Cases	Mondays, 3 - 7.p.m. Wesnesdays, 4 - 6.30.p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
	Males:	Mondays, 5.20.p.m. Wednesdays, 5.30.p.m.	Out-Patient Department
	Females:	Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m. Thursdays, 5.30.p.m.	Memorial Hospital, Cambridge.



Orthopaedic	Pre-School and Schoolchildren.	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in month (Surgeons by appointment)10.a.m.-12 noon.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

(111) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-School and Schoolchildren.	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency) 10.a.m.- 12 noon,2 - 4.p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) Hospital Services

Fever - Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

General Hospital Services are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases - Maternity facilities were provided at Primrose Lane Hospital, Huntingdon.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows:-

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary Immunisation	26	18	1	2	-	-	-	47
Secondary or Reinforcing Injection	-	-	-	1	3	61	21	86

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the District of children up to the age of 15 years.

Age at 31/12/56 1.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1956	1 - 4 1955 - 1952	5 - 9 1951 - 1947	10 - 14 1946 - 1942	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1952 - 1956	91	119	169	92	389
B. 1951 or earlier	-	-	72	154	226

TUBERCULOSIS

Total No. on Register at 31st December, 1956 ... 13

Pulmonary ... 12 Non-Pulmonary ... 1

Age Periods.	New Cases - Diagnosed				New Cases - Transfers			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1....								
5 ...								
10 ...								
15 ...								
20 ...								
25 ...								
35 ...								
45 ...	1							
55 ...								
65 and upwards								
Total	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT 1956

HOUSING

New Housing:

14 houses and 6 bungalows were completed for the Council and 3 new private houses were erected.

Two applications for advances under the Housing Act for house purchase were approved and advances made. In view of the number of applicants still requiring rehousing, steps were taken to purchase Island Hall for permanent housing purposes.

Improvements:

7 Council Houses were modernised and preliminary surveys carried out for the modernisation of the remaining 55.

13 applications for Improvement Grants in respect of 18 dwellings were received all of which were approved and 10 completed during the year.

Slum Clearance:

Formal action was taken under the Housing Act in respect of 4 properties unfit for human habitation and not capable of being made fit at reasonable expense. In the case of two properties, an undertaking was accepted from the owner to convert 2 houses into one.

In the case of two more, the Council agreed to purchase the property at site value.

WATER SUPPLY

The mains supply bulk purchased from Huntingdon Borough Council remained satisfactory. Consumers were put to temporary inconvenience when mains were broken during works in connection with the Sewerage Scheme. This was unavoidable as the majority of the town's water mains are not ring mains. In every case however, due to efforts on the part of the Council's staff and every co-operation on the part of the Sewerage Contractor repairs were speedily undertaken, and interference with supplies was kept to a minimum.

During the year further properties were connected to the mains and with the exception of the outlying farms only one house is not connected to the supply. Work commenced in conjunction with the W.C. Conversions programme of installing internal water supplies where properties were served by external stand pipe.

The daily average water consumption is 62,000 gallons or approximately 25 gallons per head per day.

At the end of the year the Council agreed to invite tenders for the provision of mains and a water tower for the provision of mains water to outlying farms between London Road and Offord Road. The water is to be purchased in bulk from St. Neots Rural District Council.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Bi-weekly collections of night soil from up to 314 permises continued to be carried out through the year. Disposal remains to be by crude tipping.

The existing sewerage system continues to flow into open dykes. Towards the end of the year, some properties were connected to the new sewers and a start made on the conversion of earth closets to water closets. The new Sewage Disposal works in Cow Lane is under construction but until it is ready sewage is being pumped from the new sewers into the old brick barrel sewer by means of a temporary pumping station installed in East Chadley Lane.

Existing drainage systems were being thoroughly inspected and smoke tested before connection to the new sewer. Where drains prove unsatisfactory or insufficient, informal and formal notices were served on owners for these drains to be put in order by the owner or by the Council's Sewerage Contractor.

Notices under Sections 45, 44, 47, of the Public Health Act, 1936 were also served on property owners for the repair or provision of closets and for the conversion of earth closets to water closets.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection of household refuse is made weekly and disposed of on a tip near London Road. Controlled tipping has not been adopted and the tip is often on fire but every effort is made by the staff to reduce the nuisance to a minimum. A certain amount of spoil from the Sewerage Scheme has been used to cover part of the tip.

STREET CLEANING

Approximately 3.5 miles of County and 2.25 miles of Borough roads are swept by 2 employees and street gullies were cleaned as necessary by use of the tumbler cart and scoops. Some complaints were again received regarding the sweeping of paths which it is not possible to do with the labour available. Weed killer was sprayed on some paths and in the back lanes.

RIVER

The bathing place remained closed but a large number of persons continued to bathe in the river. A bacteriological sample of water taken from a point opposite the bathing place on 22nd May and analysed by the Public Health Laboratory Service gave the following result:-

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37° C.	80 per 100 ml.
Probable number of fæcal coli	35 per 100 ml.

Remarks: This is the kind of count to be expected from untreated river water.

In spite of the very wet year the sluice gates continued to control any tendancy to flood except on exceptional occasions.

CARAVAN SITES

The site licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936 has continued to grow and a system of refuse collection has been undertaken. Several individual plots on this site have been raised by spoil from the sewerage excavations, thereby raising them above flood level.

A number of individual licenses have again been issued mainly for the occupation of single caravans by workers on the local sewerage works.

An unlicensed site in West Street has recently been used as a caravan site.

The conditions set out in a license issued for an individual caravan were the subject of an appeal by the occupier to the local Court of Summary Jurisdiction. The Court upheld the condition that a piped water supply be made available but extended the period of the license from one year to three years.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

During the year the duties set out in Sections 9 - 18, 21(a), 31, 37 - 39, of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 were carried out by Hunts. County Council but notice was given of that Council's intention of returning those duties to the Borough Council.

One premises in the Borough is used as a slaughter-house and one slaughter man's license is in operation.

GENERAL

Owing to the amount of work present it has been impossible to carry out all the duties laid down by Statute. Preference has therefore been given to work in connection with the Sewerage Scheme.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Public Health Act, 1936

(a)	Number of inspections made during the year including re-inspections	1523
	(Sewerage Scheme)	968
(b)	Number of notices served during the year	
	1. Informal	43
	2. Statutory	21
	Result of such notices	
	1. Informal notices complied with	23
	2. Statutory notices complied with	10

Housing Acts, 1936 - 1956

(a)	Number of inspections made during the year (other than for Improvement Grants etc.)	372
(b)	Number of notices served during the year	
	1. Informal	2
	2. Statutory	4
	Result of such notices	
	1. Informal notices complied with	2
	2. Statutory notices complied with	4
	Number of Inspections made in connection with improvement of properties	119
	Number of applications received for Improvement Grants	13
	Number of applications approved	13
	Number of applications not approved	Nil
	Number of properties improved (work completed)	10

Water Act, 1945

(a)	Number of inspections made during the year	147
(b)	Number of notices served during the year	
	1. Informal	10
	2. Statutory	8
	Result of such notices	
	1. Informal notices complied with	10
	2. Statutory notices complied with	8

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Number of inspections made during year	6

Factories Act, 1937

1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority:-

Number on Register	5
Inspections	5
Notices	Nil
Complied with	Nil.

2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority:-

Number on Register	5
Inspections	5
Notices	Nil
Complied with	Nil

3. Number of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) 3
   Number of cases of default in sending in list ... ... Nil
   Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises ... Nil

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

No. of properties inspected as a result of notification ...	25
No. of properties inspected survey under Act	150
No. of properties inspected primarily for other purposes ...	649
No. of properties inspected infested with rats	49
No. of properties inspected infested with mice	4
No. of properties treated by Local Authority	52

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